

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled and claims 3, 6, 8, 10, and 15 have been amended better to distinguish applicants' invention from the cited art. The dependencies of a number of claims has been changed in view of the cancellation of claim 1. Claim 3, the sole independent claim, has been amended to recite applicants' invention and more emphatically shows how the attachments are carried out; see the specification and instant Fig. 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as they read patentably define over the art and stand by the arguments distinguishing over the cited art appearing in the Request For Reconsideration filed September 13, 2003.

Applicants submit with respect that there is no proper awareness or teaching in the cited references, considered either singly or in combination, of the particular dextran-coated carrier claimed here. The person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated from a consideration of the art itself; applicants respectfully submit that the rationales given for the combination of references is based upon the hindsight illumination provided by applicants' disclosure.

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The detailed comments in the Advisory Action mailed September 29, 2003, have been considered. As noted above, changes have been made in the claims further to distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art teachings. Applicants say with respect that the prior art differences pointed out in the Advisory Action are telling evidence why the person of ordinary skill in the art would not be directed to a consideration of the cited references and pick and choose among various unrelated elements to arrive at the invention claimed here. The lighted path provided by hindsight and by hindsight only is the illumination used improperly to support the invention.

Favorable treatment of claims 3 and 6 to 15 is earnestly solicited.

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The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

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Charles A. Wendel

Charles A. Wendel

Registration No. 24,453

CAW/ch

Attorney Docket No.: CSEM:065

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

1421 Prince Street

Suite 210

Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805

Telephone: (703) 739-0220